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B11
Between points 23 and 24 there is a voltage of approximately 12V (the level of the vehicle voltage). In this embodiment, the transistor Q, which is actuated by a control signal 17a, the heating resistor 3 and the electrochromic mirror 2 are connected in series. As in the arrangement shown in Fig. 4a, the heating resistor is disposed flat (e.g. in a spiral or serpentine shape).

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 23-44 and add the following new claims 45-68.

45. A rear vision system suitable for use in a vehicle, the vehicle being equipped with a vehicle power supply, said vehicle rear vision system comprising:

3) a rearview mirror unit having an electrochromic mirror;

· said electrochromic mirror having a front and a rear;

5) a resistive heating element disposed to the rear of said electrochromic mirror and in thermal contact therewith, said resistive heating element in series with said electrochromic mirror, and with a vehicle voltage from the vehicle power supply being applied across said series connection of said heating element and said electrochromic mirror; and

9) a control device ^{12 (door)} operatively connected with said electrochromic mirror ² applying a control voltage that is less than the vehicle voltage to said electrochromic mirror and electrically controlling reflection properties thereof, said application of said control voltage to said electrochromic mirror causing an electrical current to flow through said heating element, heating

10) said electrochromic mirror.

46. The vehicle rear vision system according to claim 45, wherein said control device comprises a control transistor.

47. The vehicle rear vision system according to claim 45, wherein said control device has at least one light sensor generating a control signal in response to incident light flux and wherein said control device generates said control voltage dependent upon said control signal.

48. The vehicle rear vision system according to claim 46, wherein said control device has a pulse-width modulator that receives said control signal and converts said control signal into an analog control signal, said analog control signal being inputted to said control transistor.

49. The vehicle rear vision system according to claim 45, wherein said resistive element comprises at least one of a resistive coating, a heating resistor carried on a plastic foil, a spiral-shaped resistor and a serpentine-shaped resistor.

50. The vehicle rear vision system according to claim 45, wherein said control voltage is in the range of zero volts to 2.5 volts.

51. The vehicle rear vision system according to claim 50, wherein said vehicle voltage is in the range of 5 volts to 24 volts.

52. The vehicle rear vision system according to claim 45, wherein said control voltage is in the range of zero volts to 1.5 volts

53. The vehicle rear vision system according to claim 52, wherein said vehicle voltage is 12 volts.

54. The vehicle rear vision system according to claim 45, wherein said rearview mirror unit is one of an interior mirror unit and an exterior mirror unit.

55. The vehicle rear vision system according to claim 46, wherein said control transistor is connected in parallel with said electrochromic mirror.

Fig 49

56. The vehicle rear vision system according to claim 46, wherein said control transistor is connected in series with said electrochromic mirror and said heating element.

Fig 48

57. A rear vision system suitable for use in a vehicle, the vehicle being equipped with a vehicle power supply, said vehicle rear vision system comprising:

a rearview mirror unit having an accessory;

a resistive heating element in series with said accessory, and with a vehicle voltage from the vehicle power supply being applied across said series connection of said heating element and said accessory;

a control device operatively connected with said accessory applying a control voltage that is less than the vehicle voltage to said accessory and electrically controlling a property thereof, said application of said control voltage to said accessory causing an electrical current to flow through said heating element and through said accessory whereby heat is dissipated by said heating element; and

wherein said control voltage comprises a voltage in the range of zero volts to 2.5 volts and wherein said vehicle voltage is in the range of 5 volts to 24 volts.

58. The vehicle rear vision system according to claim 57, wherein said control device comprises a control transistor.

59. The vehicle rear vision system according to claim 57, wherein said control device has at least one light sensor generating a control signal in response to incident light flux and

wherein said control device generates said control voltage dependent upon said control signal.

60. The vehicle rear vision system according to claim 57, wherein said control device has a pulse-width modulator that receives ~~said control signal~~ and converts said control signal into an analog control signal, said analog control signal being inputted to said control transistor.

61. The vehicle rear vision system according to claim 57 wherein said resistive element comprises at least one of a resistive coating, a heating resistor carried on a plastic foil, a spiral-shaped resistor and a serpentine-shaped resistor.

62. The vehicle rear vision system according to claim 57, wherein said accessory comprises an electrochromic mirror having a front and a rear.

63. The vehicle rear vision system according to claim 62, wherein said resistive heating element is disposed on the rear of said electrochromic mirror and is in thermal contact therewith.

64. The vehicle rear vision system according to claim 57, wherein said control voltage is in the range of zero volts to 1.5 volts

65. The vehicle rear vision system according to claim 57, wherein said vehicle voltage is 12 volts.

66. The vehicle rear vision system according to claim 57, wherein said rearview mirror unit is one of an interior mirror unit and an exterior mirror unit.

67. The vehicle rear vision system according to claim 58, wherein said control transistor

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is connected in parallel with said accessory.

68. The vehicle rear vision system according to claim 58, wherein said control transistor is connected in series with said accessory and said heating element.
